

Figure 2.15

Thorodin Geographic Area






5,821 NFS Acres 5,396 Non-NFS Acres 11,217 Total Acres

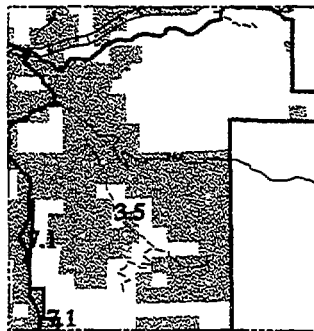
Management Area Prescription Allocation

3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management

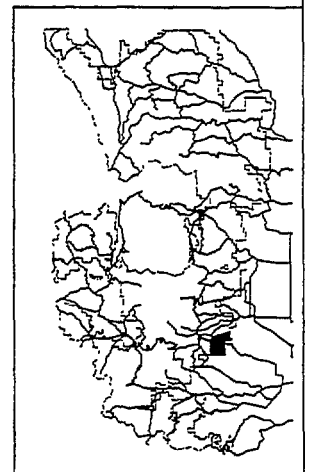
NFS Acres
5,821

Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (0.12 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites



Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



THORODIN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located between the town of Pinecliffe and Mt. Thorodin. It contains a mix of lower and upper montane plant communities consisting of aspen, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, meadows and rock outcrops. Elevations range from 7,300 to 10,540 feet. Mt. Thorodin, Gross Reservoir, and the towns of Pinecliffe and Wonderview are the key geographic features.

The largest block of National Forest land in the geographic area is located west of Gross Reservoir along Winiger Ridge. In addition to being a critical elk winter range, Winiger Ridge is a small part of the area covered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's permit to the City of Denver for Gross Reservoir. Ownership in the remainder of the area is moderately fragmented by fairly large blocks of private land that are in many cases subdivided.

The area's extensive transportation network includes primary access via Colorado Highway 72 and a significant number of county and private roads that provide passenger car access to the many subdivisions and other private parcels. The Winiger Ridge Road network is the best known of the isolated 4WD routes. There is also a limited trail system.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize the maintenance and enhancement of flora and fauna throughout the area.

Restore, enhance, or maintain mountain grassland and aspen communities on an opportunity basis. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime. Emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Direct control is the wildland fire management strategy throughout the geographic area (see the *wildland fire management strategy map*).

Some restoration of natural processes through human-induced activities is anticipated, particularly in fire-dependent ecosystems. The kinds of treatments that could be considered include prescribed fire or mechanical treatments of vegetation through ponderosa pine thinnings and in some cases commercial timber sales. Specific goals for these treatments include improving wildlife habitats, restoring forest health, assisting in the recruitment of old-growth ponderosa pine, reducing fuel loading, and maintaining or restoring ecological integrity. In ponderosa pine communities, these activities will occur primarily on south-facing slopes. Timber harvest may be used to accomplish these goals and is probable on suitable and available lands (see the *timber suitability map*).

Maintain the area's recreational setting and provide for year-round recreational use. Minimize damage to riparian areas and other sensitive habitats by limiting camping to designated sites or

closing areas to overnight use. Designated dispersed campsites may be implemented in the Winiger Ridge area; the area along County Road 68J may be closed to overnight camping. Emphasize nonmotorized recreational opportunities near Mt. Thorodin. Provide primitive motorized recreational opportunities in the Winiger Ridge area during summer and fall. Close this area to motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles, in the winter and spring to minimize human-wildlife conflicts. Provide an area with minimal human-wildlife conflicts on a year round basis by limiting access to nonmotorized use only in the area between Winiger Gulch and South Boulder Creek.

Pursue rights-of-way for the Mt. Thorodin and Boiling Gulch Trails and the Mt. Thorodin Road.

The travel management strategy for the area will be to encourage passenger car travel on the extensive network of state highways and county roads. Motorized travel will continue on a seasonal basis on some of the 4WD routes. Most of the trails in the area will be retained. There may be significant road closures and obliterations to help restore important meadows and wildlife winter range, particularly in the vicinity of Winiger Ridge (see the travel management strategy chart). Most decisions on the specific roads and trails to keep or close will be made during travel management implementation.

Manage the Mt. Thorodin electronics site through the special-use permit issued to Western Site Management. Phase out other permit holders at the site.

Consolidate landownership patterns on an opportunity basis.

Manage recreational uses and road and trail networks to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions. Evaluate road and trail impacts to aquatic and riparian ecosystems during travel management planning.

Travel Management Strategy, Thorodin Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.5	4WD	R	N	N	N	H
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	L

